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# VITAL STATISTICS OF QUEENSLAND.

## YEAR 1944.

Queensland vital statistics for 1944 showed (i) the highest birth rate for 18 years, (ii) the lowest infantile death rate ever recorded, (iii) the second highest number of marriages ever recorded, and (iv) a very low death rate.

## BIRTHS:

During the year 1944, 24,520 births were registered in Queensland, giving a crude birth rate of 23.0 per 1,000 population. The number of births was 1,286 more than in 1943, in which year occurred the highest number of births ever previously recorded in this State. The birth rate (23.0) reached its highest level since 1925, when it was 24.2 per 1,000. The rate reached its lowest level (18.1) in 1933, and since that year has risen steadily. However, it must be remembered that the increased numbers of births have been due largely to a very high proportion of first births during recent years, following increased numbers of marriages due to marriages delayed from the depression years, and marriages hastened by war conditions. The net reproduction rate for Queensland for 1944 was approximately 1.32, indicating that current births were 32 per cent. more than the number required to replace the present generation. It is clear that such a high rate cannot be maintained after the war with the present fertility rates of married women, as the proportion of newly married mothers must fall. Whether the rate will fall back to, or below, unity, or replacement level, cannot be forecast before the event. A satisfactory feature of rates of recent years, however, is the tendency for births, other than first births, to increase.

In 1944, there were 12,558 males and 11,962 females born, equivalent to 105.0 males per 100 females. It is sometimes believed that during war the proportion of male births increases. This belief is not supported by the Queensland figures, as the number of male births to every 100 female births in Queensland during the ten years ended 1938 was 105.5, while figures for the five war years ended 1944 were 105.6, 106.1, 105.7, 103.2, and 105.0.

Women married to American Servicemen were the mothers of approximately 500 children born during 1944. For the whole war period to the end of 1944, the number was 750.

## MARRIAGES:

Marriages during 1944 numbered 11,325, compared with 8,853 in 1938. All the war years have shown very high numbers of marriages, particularly 1942 (11,722) and 1944. In aggregate, the war years have recorded over 9,000 more marriages than would have occurred had the 1938 level been maintained. There have been nearly 3,000 marriages of American Servicemen in this State.

The number of marriages is bound to fall during the next few years. The reason for this will be apparent from the following table which shows the numbers of women of various ages who have been married in Queensland during the past seven years.

Numbers of Brides of Various Ages - Queensland.

| Age Groups | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Under 21 | 2,126 | 2,219 | 2,499 | 2,563 | 2,935 | 2,679 | 3,172 |
| 21-24 .. | 3,272 | 3,358 | 3,774 | 3,570 | 4,456 | 3,751 | 4,278 |
| 25-29 .. | 2,001 | 2,106 | 2,372 | 2,129 | 2,457 | 1,894 | 2,083 |
| 30-34 .. | 707 | 698 | 783 | 754 | 922 | 783 | 807 |
| 35-39 .. | 328 | 316 | 366 | 350 | 405 | 350 | 400 |
| 40 and over | 419 | 411 | 493 | 519 | 547 | 522 | 585 |
| Total | 8,853 | 9,108 | 10,287 | 9,885 | 11,722 | 9,979 | 11,325 |

During the last few years not only has the normal contingent of marriageable women been married, but also large numbers both of young girls and of older women, and the reserves of marriageable women have by now been seriously depleted.

Of bridegrooms married in 1944, 590 (5.2 per cent.) were minors, while 3,172 (28.0 per cent.) of the brides were minors. During the war years, the proportion of minors married has increased slightly for both sexes. In 1939, 4.3 per cent. of bridegrooms were under 21 years of age, the proportions for the five years ended 1944 being 4.3, 5.4, 5.4, 5.8, and 5.2 per cent. respectively. Corresponding figures for brides were 24.4 per cent. for 1939, and 24.3, 26.0, 25.0, 26.8, and 28.0 per cent. for the succeeding five years.

DEATHS:

Deaths of civilians during 1944 numbered 9,385 a decrease of 1,191 from the record high number of 10,576 in 1943. The death rate for 1944 was 8.8 compared with 10.1 in 1943. (It should be remembered that in calculating these war time death rates, deaths of all Servicemen and Servicewomen are excluded. Some of the deaths of members of the Forces would have occurred if they had remained civilians, and the death rates are slightly deflated for comparative purposes for that reason.) The high death rate in 1943 was principally due to very heavy mortality from influenza, measles, tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, cerebro-spinal meningitis, scarlet fever, and other infective diseases. In 1944, the numbers of deaths from the following causes were much below normal:- influenza, broncho-pneumonia and pneumonia.

INFANTILE MORTALITY:

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age during 1944 were 768, compared with 878 in the previous year. For 1944, the rate of infantile mortality was 31.3 per 1,000 births. This is easily the lowest infantile mortality rate ever recorded in Queensland, the previous lowest being 34.8 in 1942. Coupled with the highest number of births ever recorded in the State, this record low infantile death rate makes a very satisfactory result for the year.

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TABLE NO. 1 - BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

| | Births | | All Deaths | | Deaths under One Year | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1943 | 1944 | 1943 | 1944 | 1943 | 1944 |
| METROPOLITAN | | | | | | |
| City .. .. | 803 | 933 | 801 | 699 | 48 | 45 |
| Western Suburbs .. | 1,204 | 1,180 | 721 | 626 | 50 | 42 |
| Northern Suburbs .. | 1,311 | 1,441 | 557 | 481 | 45 | 41 |
| Toombul - Sandgate .. | 1,239 | 1,379 | 521 | 476 | 33 | 38 |
| Total North of River .. | 4,557 | 4,933 | 2,600 | 2,282 | 176 | 166 |
| South Brisbane .. | 1,266 | 1,380 | 823 | 676 | 54 | 38 |
| South Side Suburbs .. | 1,937 | 2,232 | 835 | 813 | 61 | 54 |
| Total South of River .. | 3,203 | 3,612 | 1,658 | 1,489 | 115 | 92 |
| Total Metropolitan .. | 7,760 | 8,545 | 4,258 | 3,771 | 291 | 258 |
| NON-METROPOLITAN | | | | | | |
| Sub-Tropical | | | | | | |
| Bundaberg .. .. | 333 | 414 | 171 | 177 | 12 | 17 |
| Gympie .. .. | 230 | 181 | 97 | 96 | 6 | 7 |
| Ipswich .. .. | 496 | 582 | 289 | 278 | 30 | 22 |
| Maryborough .. .. | 317 | 319 | 129 | 153 | 9 | 9 |
| Toowoomba .. .. | 791 | 766 | 403 | 402 | 30 | 35 |
| Warwick .. .. | 220 | 226 | 85 | 89 | 8 | 13 |
| Total Sub-Trop. Cities .. | 2,387 | 2,488 | 1,174 | 1,195 | 95 | 103 |
| Total Sub-Trop. Towns .. | 755 | 845 | 343 | 330 | 26 | 41 |
| Total Sub-Trop. Shires .. | 6,771 | 6,990 | 2,351 | 1,950 | 235 | 188 |
| Total Sub-Tropical .. | 9,913 | 10,323 | 3,868 | 3,475 | 356 | 332 |
| Tropical | | | | | | |
| Cairns .. .. | 372 | 379 | 182 | 135 | 15 | 11 |
| Charters Towers .. | 170 | 165 | 159 | 162 | 11 | 3 |
| Mackay .. .. | 223 | 267 | 130 | 116 | 10 | 11 |
| Rockhampton .. .. | 757 | 739 | 396 | 283 | 22 | 18 |
| Townsville .. .. | 785 | 740 | 332 | 308 | 32 | 23 |
| Total Tropical Cities .. | 2,307 | 2,290 | 1,199 | 1,004 | 90 | 66 |
| Total Tropical Towns .. | 155 | 157 | 90 | 100 | 11 | 10 |
| Total Tropical Shires .. | 3,099 | 3,205 | 1,161 | 1,035 | 130 | 102 |
| Total Tropical .. .. | 5,561 | 5,652 | 2,450 | 2,139 | 231 | 178 |
| Total occurring in Q'ld. .. | 23,234 | 24,520 | 10,576 | 9,385 | 878 | 768 |

| | Birth Rates (a) | | Death Rates (a) | | Infant Mortality Rates (b) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1943 | 1944 | 1943 | 1944 | 1943 | 1944 |
| Metropolitan | | | | | | |
| North of River .. | 21.4 | 22.3 | 12.2 | 10.3 | 38.6 | 33.7 |
| South of River .. | 20.8 | 22.6 | 10.8 | 9.3 | 35.9 | 25.5 |
| Total .. .. | 21.2 | 22.5 | 11.6 | 9.9 | 37.5 | 30.2 |
| Non-Metropolitan | | | | | | |
| Sub-Tropical - Cities .. | 24.8 | 25.3 | 12.2 | 12.1 | 39.8 | 41.4 |
| Towns .. | 22.8 | 25.4 | 10.4 | 9.9 | 34.4 | 48.5 |
| Shires .. | 22.2 | 23.0 | 7.7 | 6.4 | 34.7 | 26.9 |
| Total .. | 22.8 | 23.7 | 8.9 | 8.0 | 35.9 | 32.2 |
| Tropical - Cities .. | 23.6 | 23.3 | 12.3 | 10.2 | 39.0 | 28.8 |
| Towns and Shires | 21.4 | 22.3 | 8.2 | 7.5 | 43.3 | 33.3 |
| Total .. | 22.3 | 22.7 | 9.8 | 8.6 | 41.5 | 31.5 |
| Total Queensland .. | 22.1 | 23.0 | 10.1 | 8.8 | 37.8 | 31.3 |

(a) Per 1,000 of mean population.
(b) Per 1,000 live births.

TABLE NO. 2 - MARRIAGES.

| | MARRIAGES | | MINORS MARRIED, 1944. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1943 | 1944 | Males | Females | Persons. |
| METROPOLITAN .. .. | 4,745 | 5,828 | 250 | 1,368 | 1,618 |
| NON-METROPOLITAN | | | | | |
| Sub-tropical | | | | | |
| Bundaberg .. .. | 191 | 203 | 12 | 67 | 79 |
| Gympie .. .. | 153 | 133 | 9 | 45 | 54 |
| Ipswich .. .. | 351 | 328 | 24 | 99 | 123 |
| Maryborough .. .. | 173 | 172 | 18 | 55 | 73 |
| Toowoomba .. .. | 479 | 548 | 27 | 147 | 174 |
| Warwick .. .. | 150 | 134 | 8 | 27 | 35 |
| Total Sub-Tropical Cities | 1,497 | 1,518 | 98 | 440 | 538 |
| Sub-Tropical Other .. | 1,515 | 1,660 | 112 | 593 | 705 |
| Total Sub-Tropical .. | 3,012 | 3,178 | 210 | 1,033 | 1,243 |
| Tropical | | | | | |
| Cairns .. .. | 231 | 238 | 17 | 79 | 96 |
| Charters Towers .. | 101 | 68 | 3 | 12 | 15 |
| Mackay .. .. | 212 | 225 | 13 | 85 | 98 |
| Rockhampton .. .. | 398 | 446 | 19 | 139 | 158 |
| Townsville .. .. | 475 | 536 | 20 | 140 | 160 |
| Total Tropical Cities .. | 1,417 | 1,513 | 72 | 455 | 527 |
| Tropical Other .. | 805 | 806 | 58 | 316 | 374 |
| Total Tropical .. | 2,222 | 2,319 | 130 | 771 | 901 |
| Total Queensland .. | 9,979 | 11,325 | 590 | 3,172 | 3,762 |

Marriage Rates Per 1,000 of Mean Population.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Metropolitan .. .. | 12.9 | 15.3 |
| Non-Metropolitan | | |
| Sub-Tropical - Cities | 15.5 | 15.4 |
| Total | 6.9 | 7.3 |
| Tropical - Cities | 14.5 | 15.4 |
| Total | 8.9 | 9.3 |
| Total Queensland .. | 9.5 | 10.6 |